

REMARKS

Claims 16-40 are pending in the application. Claims 16-40 are rejected. No amendments have been made.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

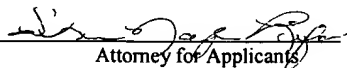
Claims 16-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,477,580, Bowman-Amuah (Bowman).

A Declaration of Prior Invention in the United States pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 is filed concurrently herewith to swear behind the cited reference Bowman, U.S. Patent No. 6,477,580. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the declaration, as the document was only recently discovered upon a search of the author's files. Accordingly, U.S. Patent No. 6,477,580 is properly excluded as prior art against claims 16-40 of the Application under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Independent claim 16, and its dependent claims 17-21, independent claim 22 and its dependent claims 32 and 37, independent claim 23 and its dependent claims 33 and 38, independent claim 24 and its dependent claims 34 and 39, and independent claim 25 and its dependent claims 26-30, 35, and 40 are thereby allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5086.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 6, 2005.


Attorney for Applicants

5/6/04
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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